



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, July 8, 2015

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (15-3132)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montañó, Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, Commissioner Johanna Arias-Bhatia, Vice Chairperson Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Susan Burton, Commissioner Percy Duran III, Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D. and Commissioner Theresa Zhen

Excused: Commissioner Keren M. Goldberg and Commissioner Anne S. Hill

Staff present: Bolaji Famuyiwa, Roy Sinclair and Jenny Kimbell. (15-3334)

Call to Order. (15-3265)

Chairperson Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Chairperson Montañó led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence. Vice Chairperson Bigby and Commissioner Burton joined at 10:15 a.m. respectfully.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

- 1. Approval of the July 1, 2015 Minutes. (15-3266)**

On motion of Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Cheryl Grills and unanimously carried, this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

2. Chairperson's Report on various items. (15-3269)

Chairperson Montaña shared the following Newspaper Article with the Commission:

Los Angeles Times:

- **Wanted: True Oversight of the L.A. County Sheriff's Department**

A discussion ensued in which the Commissioners expressed their concerns and disappointments regarding the article. The Commissioners felt that this article was a poor representation of the SBC. However, the Commission agrees that based on the Los Angeles Times Article, the Civilian Oversight Commission report and the Civil Grand Jury's report the SBC should be more targeted and not overlap the duties of other agencies.

Discussing the article, Commissioner Zhen urged the Commissioners to pay attention closely to the concerns described in the editorial as it is a cry out for an independent oversight body for the Sheriff's Department. There was also a conversation about whether or not the SBC can be partially independent in their role since the Commissioners are appointed by the Board of Supervisors. There was also a consensus that the Commissioners inspection should be more focused on the jails/lockups rather than the group homes. Commissioner Andrews clarified that the Chairperson is already working on assigning the Commissioners by team to go and inspect the different areas/sections of Men's Central Jail.

Commissioner Zhen presented a recommendation on behalf of herself and Commissioner Goldberg, that the Commissioners meet with their respective appointing Supervisors to discuss the and define the SBC parameters, goals and duties in order to remain consistent with the Commissions' charge. The Commissioners further agreed that they will each reach out to their respective Supervisor to find out what their vision for SBC is, from here onward.

Commissioner Bigby asked the Commissioners to review the SBC Goals for 2015 and requested Staff to agendize on a future agenda for review and revision.

Attachments: [SUPORRTING DOCUMENT](#)

3. Treasurer's Report. (15-3270)

Commissioner Andrews reported that the balance of the Commissioner's Charitable Fund is \$318.90.

4. Staff Report on Correspondence Received and Department Representative Reports. (15-3271)

Twila Kerr, Chief, Commission Services Division, reported that the Audit Committee (AC) approved a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to extend the Commission's Sunset Review to December 1, 2015. In addition, the AC approved a recommendation to amend Ordinance Section 2.82.020 Composition to add provision for Election of Officers and Section 2.82.050 Compensation. Ms. Kerr further reported that the AC would wait to amend Section 2.82.080 Inspection of jails, probation, correction facilities and group homes after the completion of an assessment on County Commissions. The Commission was instructed by the AC to continue business as usual.

Ms. Kerr also informed the Commission of the Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO), recommendation to the Board of Supervisor of a revised County Governance, which included an assessment of approximately 70 Commissions created by ordinance. Lastly, she informed the Commission that prior to the completion of the County Commissions assessment the Audit Committee will invite Sybil Brand and Probation Commission, Department of Children and Families and the Probation Department to a meeting to discuss their duties.

Following her report, Staff reported that the Office of Education agreed to present at the meeting of July 29, 2015 and a special meeting with the Department of Children and Family Services and Probation Department will be held on August 12, 2015. The DCFS and Probation Department training on the new monitoring tool was moved to the next fiscal year; Commissioner Grills suggested meeting with DCFS staff to discuss the protocols used during their inspections prior to the training. Also, Probation was unable to submit their monthly report one week before the meeting; the report will be submitted on Monday.

In regards to the Sheriff's Department, they agreed to provide a layout of the Men's Central Jail and a representative will be available to provide clarification on the following items as requested by the Commission;

1) how the inmate welfare funds are utilized, 2) the inmate EBI Program, 3) services provided by the Transition Unit, 4) guidelines on the inmate disciplinary diet and 5) information on how Commissioners can obtain green badge passes. There was a consensus by the Commission to have the Sheriff's Department report on their items last in consideration of departments with shorter presentations.

In response to an inquiry by Commissioner Zhen, on the status of contacting the Superior Court Liaison, staff reported that the contact is not responsive and they are working on obtaining more information.

5. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports presented on July 8, 2015. (15-3272)

There was no report presented.

6. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from July 2, 2015 to July 7, 2015. (15-3273)

During the reporting period, the following group homes/facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited:

- Temple Sheriff Station (Las Tunas Drive, Temple City, CA) on July 7, 2015.

Vice Chairperson Bigby visited:

- Bourne Inc. (Lake Ave., Altadena, CA) on July 2, 2015.

Vice Chairperson Bigby and Commissioner Duran visited:

- Camp Rockey (Sycamore Canyon Road, San Dimas, CA) on July 6, 2015.

III. DISCUSSION

7. Continuation of discussion and appropriate action on the Civil Grand Jury Report on SBC. (15-3277)

The Commission discussed the findings in the Civil Grand Jury Report (CGJR) relating to Finding 2 and Recommendation 10.2.

Related to replacing the weekly meetings

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Cheryl Grills, seconded by Vice Chairperson Barbara Bigby, the Commission will reduce the number of weekly meetings to two times a month, beginning October 1, 2015, subject to the planning and revision of the Commission bylaws.

Commissioner Theresa Zhen made an amendment to Commissioner Grills' motion to encompass the rest of the CGJR recommendation that would include, in the weeks where SBC meetings are not held, the additional time be used to conduct commissioner business in the jails by visiting the jails and conducting more comprehensive jail inmate and staff interviews beginning in October. The motion was duly carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Bhatia, Burton, Grills, Zhen and Vice Chair Bigby

Noes: Commissioners Andrews, Duran and Chair Montaña

Excused: Commissioners Hill and Goldberg

Commissioner Theresa Zhen made a second amendment to her motion, seconded by Commissioner Arias Bhatia, and unanimously carried, to indicate the recommendations are subject to an approved amendment of the bylaws.

In regards to Finding 1 and Recommendation 10.1, Commissioner Grills made a motion to agree with the finding and address the issue during the sunset review process, seconded by Commissioner Zhen, the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued on Finding 2 and Recommendation 10.2 relating to the meetings. After discussion, staff clarified that action was already taken on those items. Commissioner Grills noted that the Commission is in the process of actively gathering information from the Sheriffs' to allow strategic inspections of jail and lock up facilities and planning meetings with relevant departments to examine protocols and determine areas of overlap to include the efficiency of what the Commission does.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

8. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (15-3274)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

9. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (15-3275)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

10. Adjournment for the meeting of July 8, 2015. (15-3276)

There being no further business, Chairperson Montaña adjourned the meeting of July 8, 2015 at 12:18 p.m.